

**City of Bloomington
Telecommunications Council
Business Meeting – December 6th, 2011**

**Common Council Chambers
City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.**

I. Members Present: Eric Ost, Carl Zager, & Suzann Owen

II. Public Comment: Lennon Beasley produced nothing in November.

III. Approval of Minutes: October 4th minutes approved. November 1st minutes approved.

IV. Reports and Announcements

1. Telecom Members:

1. Suzann – Cited from an article in Forbes magazine about the FCC. She mentioned the parallel between the national view and what is occurring here locally. The FCC needs to be brought up to date, and gaps closed. The article was written by a Larry Downes.

2. CATS – Martin O’Neil

- Monthly programming
- Discussion of election coverage

Suzann – The ending time of coverage did not seem to coincide with what would have been the normal result time.

Eric – Complimented CATS on the interviews that were done, and was glad all the technology worked so well.

Carl - CATS is truly a treasure. The PEG channels we have here are unique to Monroe County. This is a resource that we cannot afford to lose.

3. WTIU – Phil Meyer

- Also had election coverage on both TV, and radio.
- They have also done programs with the Jacob School of Music
- 7 of the 8 stations are now carrying the weekly special
- When the national alert occurred, they seem to have problems with the audio. There has not been any mention of a follow-up to the national alert.

Suzann – How is the fund drive going?

Phil – Better than last year, but not as much as we would like.

Note: Slight recess taken.

V. Information from or about Video Service Provider – No Report

Suzann – Franchise Fee Quarterly Report given

Carl - If you look at the decline in the revenues. You can see why it is important that we look for alternatives funding for CATS.

VI. New Business

Eric – Made the following motion:

The telecommunications council will sponsor and coordinate the creation of a group to study the legal economics and technical feasibility of building a broadband system using the city’s existing and planned fiber as well as building out additional infra-structure.

The group would investigate the following:

- * evaluate broadband technologies that might be used in a public network.
- * combination of copper, fiber, and wireless

- * evaluate the option of the city creating a utility
- * to explore the feasibility of strategic public benefit of public/private partnership for the build-out.
- * evaluate the feasibility of a community staffed co-up/workforce project to build-out the fiber to the home infrastructure.
- * consider the feasibility or the ability of the city building a public broadband network only providing wholesale data transport services.

This group would report to the telecommunications Council. The report would be reviewed and adopted for presentation to the city council, administration, and public.

Carl – 2nd the motion

Discussion:

Suzann – This brings to light things that we have not been discussed and we need to spend some time with it. We also need to involve those people who would be affected by this motion, and whether or not it has any touch with reality. A decision cannot be made on this tonight. The new charter needs to be in place before the council moves on with any such measures.

Carl & Eric both disagreed. They felt that this was an avenue the council needed to follow.

Carl made a motion to postpone the decision on the motion until the January meeting.

VII. Adjournment

A motion was made by Eric that the meeting be adjourned.

Next Regular Meeting

January 3rd, 2012

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Jachim 12-19-2011